Government regarding opening 92834 funded Anganwadis under the Integrated Child Development Scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken so far any decision on this proposal;

(c) if so, the number of the funded tribal and non-tribal Anganwadis set so far on the basis of their population;

(d) the number of the proposals still pending for approval; and

(e) if not, by when Government are likely to take a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra submitted a proposal for sanction of 44 additional ICDS Projects and 12864 additional Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which have already been sanctioned.

(c) In Maharashtra, 372 Projects and 75580 AWCs were already sanctioned, which included 41 tribal projects with 7938 AWCs. Of the 44 additional Projects and 12864 additional Anganwadi Centres sanctioned recently, the number of tribal Projects and AWCs is 9 and 3406 respectively.

(d) and (e) The Government of Maharashtra has submitted another proposal for sanction of 11311 additional Anganwadi Centres/Mini-Anganwadi Centres, based on relaxed population norms. The same will be considered as and when further expansion of ICDS Scheme is undertaken in the second phase.

Out-dated structure of higher education

1998. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present structure of higher education is out-dated;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the higher education need a far reaching structural reconstruction; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) Reforms in higher education are carried out as a continuous process. The objective of this process is to make higher education an effective promoter of sustainable

human development to meet future challenges. To fulfill its constitutional responsibility for maintaining the standards in higher education, necessary regulations, directions and circulars are issued by the Central Government/ UGC from time to time.

A major thrust is being given to improve the quality of education and research in the institutions of higher learnings, as also to increase access with equity.

Implementation of ICDS

1999. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued directions to the State Governments to speed up implementation of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that UNICEF has expressed concern over the persistent neglect of this project;

(d) whether Government have brought any additional socio-economically disadvantaged regions in the ambit of this project; and

(e) if so, the details of the additional areas which have been brought within the fold of this project in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The directions issued to the State Governments to speed up and effectively implement the ICDS Scheme, *inter alia,* include:-

* to operationalise all sanctioned Projects and Anganwadi Centres (AWCs);
* to fill up the posts of ICDS functionaries;
* to ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms;
* to make available medicine and pre-school kits in all AWCs;
* to ensure registration of all eligible beneficiaries in AWCs;
* to set up and hold regular meeting of Coordination Committee at State, District and block level for effective convergence of health, nutrition and education services under various programmes.